

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20305

DDI-2952-74

NSA review
completed

25 September 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable James W. Plummer
Under Secretary of the Air Force

SUBJECT: Taking Stock of the National
Reconnaissance Program

1. Thank you for the draft of your stock-taking memo for Dr. Schlesinger. It is an excellent and simple summary of a fantastically complicated and productive program.

2. A few questions or thoughts came to mind after I read it. May I share them with you?

a. Your mention of the problems of compartmentalized security of course brings up the TK problem. While we have essentially solved this in the photographic field, I wonder whether we have that problem in the SIGINT field. [] is taking a look at encouraging the wider availability and use of Category II as well as Category III SIGINT, which might bear on the degree we need TK for overhead SIGINT.

b. I agree with your thought that we should consciously expose the NRP to the Congress on a periodic basis during the year. If I can help, please call on me.

c. Your "quasi membership" in the Intelligence Community stems of course from the fact that we do not admit the existence of NRO. This is being looked at by the PFIAB, among others. Should we


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consider adding NRO to USIB in the same fashion as NSA, so that you could participate in the discussions but not have to develop an analytical staff? In part, we solve this by inviting you whenever anything comes up concerning you, but I wonder if you should be a formal member, which would require that your existence be declassified.

d. I notice with interest your reference to an Omnibus NSCID and welcome your belief that a formal status for NRO might assist your relationships within the Community. I am committed in the Omnibus NSCID only to "codify" the current situation rather than to make any substantial changes in it, but if in the process of developing the detailed Omnibus NSCID you find some matters that should be changed, I encourage you to advance them.

3. I fully concur with your summary at the end, especially the high value that NRO has provided our country. We must maintain the flexibility, and we must maintain your authority.


W. E. Colby
Director

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